

## BELLRINGERS' REPORT FOR 2020 A.P.C.M.

The St Andrew's Society of Change Ringers provides ringing for services on Sundays and for church festivals, weddings and other special events throughout the year. The tower houses eight large bells hung for change ringing, plus a small *Angelus* bell. Our weekly practice sessions are normally held on Thursday evenings and are generally open to visitors.

Our Society is affiliated to the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild, and comes under its North and East District. Members of our Society play a very active role within the District, frequently supporting bands at other towers and ringing for weddings and special events elsewhere. Our current membership stands at 10 – 8 adults and 2 juniors.

During the period from April 2019 to March 2020, we enjoyed a full programme of activities. Highlights of last year included ringing for the Enfield Deanery Service for Swearing In of Church Wardens at St Andrew's on 12<sup>th</sup> June, the Edmonton Episcopal Area Ordination Service at All Saints' on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and a quarter-peal rung on 25<sup>th</sup> August to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of a local hero, the renowned civil engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette, CB.

In July 2019 we ran a stall at the St Andrew's Summer Music Festival. Our Society AGM was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November and chaired by Rev Dr Steve. On Remembrance Sunday the bells were rung 'half-muffled' for our Service of Remembrance, and on 1<sup>st</sup> December we rang our second quarter-peal of the year as part of the town's annual 'Christmas Parade of Light'.

In January this year, the church launched a new Sunday service format and schedule, and the Society readily agreed to provide ringing for both the 9.30 and 11.00am services.

This year's District AGM was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February at St John of Jerusalem, South Hackney. During the meeting, 3 new members of our Society were elected to MCALDG membership, the culmination of an unusually busy 12-month period spent training local recruits. In fact, of the 41 new members elected within the District this year, 11 were trained by St Andrew's ringers, including all 5 of the District's new junior members – quite an achievement.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March all ringing activity was suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak – as, indeed, were all church services. The following Sunday saw the church's first online service streamed live on Facebook, and we were pleased to offer Rev Dr Steve an audio clip of our bells, which has been played at the beginning and end of every Sunday service broadcast since then.

During the summer, ringing was restricted to the tolling of a single bell to commemorate such national events as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of VE Day in May and VJ Day in August, and the remembrance of the 72 victims of the Grenfell Tower fire, whose 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary fell in June. Like many towers, we have made use of the online platform Zoom to hold weekly meetings and have also been using Ringing Room, an online virtual tower, to help maintain our skills.

Actual service ringing resumed on 6<sup>th</sup> September, albeit in a very limited form, subject to social distancing, and restrictions on numbers and the duration and frequency of ringing. The ban on practice sessions remained in place. Sadly, on 17<sup>th</sup> October, as London moved into the Government's Tier 2, all group ringing activity was once again suspended until further notice.

The additional structural supports and temporary work platform installed in the belfry during the repairs to the tower roof in 2018 remain in place but have not caused any problems.

Chris Trawin  
Tower Secretary